

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 OIC-02 /132 W
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P 141808Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7380

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IEA, ENRG
SUBJECT: IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING: COAL AND MSP

A. FOLLOWING REPORT, AGREED TO IN SUBSTANCE BY THE
SLT, WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNING BOARD BY THE
SLT CHAIRMAN.

1. BOTH THE SLT AND THE SUB-GROUP DISCUSSED THE
ISSUE OF STEAM COAL, CONCENTRATING UPON THE PROSPECTS
FOR STEAM COAL DRAFT DATED 25TH AUGUST; THIS DOCUMENT
IS AN UPDATE OF AN EARLIER MARCH DRAFT, INCORPORATING
COMMENTS MADE BY DELEGATIONS AT A SUB-GROUP MEETING
IN EARLY JUNE OF THIS YEAR.

- CONSIDERABLE SECRETARIAT EFFORT HAS GONE INTO
THIS THIRD DRAFT OF THE REPORT;
- MANY DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE
BULK OF THEIR TECHNICAL CONCERNS HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT;
- THE TECHNICAL ASSUMPTIONS AND PREMISES OF THE

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REPORT ARE NOW REASONABLY WELL UNDERSTOOD.

2. IT IS THE GENERAL VIEW AMONG DELEGATIONS THAT
THE ANALYSIS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT, SUBJECT TO
SOME FURTHER REFINEMENT AND CORRECTIONS, WOULD BE
A USEFUL AND VALUABLE ADDITION TO THE PUBLIC'S AWARE-
NESS OF ENERGY ISSUES, AND THE ONGOING ENERGY DEBATE.

- WHILE THE DOCUMENT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARIAT, THE PUBLIC-AT-LARGE MAY NOT DIFFERENTIATE CLEARLY BETWEEN IEA/SECRETARIAT AND IEA MATERIAL;
- CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE THE APPROACH AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT CANNOT BE IDENTICAL WITH THE COLLECTIVE POSITION OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, WHEN THIS COMES TO BE DEFINED, THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD ENSURE THAT ITS REPORT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL CONCERNS AND POSITIONS.

3. CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL SECTIONS OF THE REPORT, PARTICULARLY THE COUNTRY- AND REGION-SPECIFIC SECTIONS, A LIMITED ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF TIME IS NEEDED FOR DELEGATIONS TO SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE SECRETARIAT; IN VIRTUALLY ALL INSTANCES, IT APPEARS FEASIBLE TO COMPLETE THIS PHASE OF WORK BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

- THE SECRETARIAT WILL TAKE THESE COMMENTS INTO ACCOUNT, AND IF NECESSARY CIRCULATE A RE-DRAFT, OR A CORRIGENDUM, COVERING THE TECHNICAL SECTIONS OF THE REPORT;
- IT APPEARS FROM THE RECENT DISCUSSION ON THE TECHNICAL SECTIONS THAT FOR MOST DELEGATIONS THE TASK OF INCORPORATING TECHNICAL COMMENTS DOES NOT RAISE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVERE OR UNMANAGEABLE PROBLEMS.

- NONETHELESS, A LIMITED NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS CONTINUES TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ON SELECTED TECHNICAL ISSUES WITHIN THE REPORT, SOME OF WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

4. FURTHER ATTENTION WILL HAVE TO BE DEVOTED TO SECTION B, POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE COAL. AT PRESENT, DELEGATIONS ARE AWAITING THE GUIDANCE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, PRESUMABLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A REACTION TO DR. LANTZKE'S LETTER OF 6TH SEPTEMBER ON THE COAL TOPIC.

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- THE SECRETARIAT HAS HAD THE BENEFIT OF DELEGATIONS' VIEWS ON POLICY-RELATED TOPICS, BOTH DURING THE JUNE AND THE SEPTEMBER SUB-GROUP MEETINGS;

- BASED ON THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE SECRETARIAT HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE PROMPTLY A REDRAFT OF SECTION B;

5. IT WAS THE SENSE OF BOTH THE SLT AND THE SUB-GROUP THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR DELEGATIONS TO REFLECT ON THE TECHNICAL AND POLICY-ORIENTED VERSIONS, AND IF NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT WITH THEIR REACTIONS, THROUGH ANOTHER REVIEW MEETING. SOME DELEGATIONS WERE CONVINCED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE REQUIRED.

B. MSP - DURING SLT DISCUSSION ON EXTENSION OF MSP PROVISIONS ON PRICE AND PRODUCTS COVERED, SWEDES, NORWEGIANS AND BRITISH EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RAISE THE MSP, BUT WERE FIRMLY OPPOSED BY THE GERMANS, JAPANESE AND ITALIANS. A LOOSE CONSENSUS EMERGED IN SUPPORT OF A SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL THAT THE GOVERNING
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BOARD SIMPLY EXTEND THE PROVISIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING. THE DUTCH SUGGESTED THAT THE EXTENSION BE LIMITED TO TWO YEARS. ONLY NORWAY INDICATED THAT ITS GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSING A PRICE RISE AT THE UPCOMING GB MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COAL, REPORTS, MEETING REPORTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS30518
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-0681
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780966/aaaaccqa.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d10f2250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1433031
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING: COAL AND MSP A. FOLLOWING REPORT, AGREED TO IN SUBSTANCE BY THE SLT, WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNING BOARD BY T
TAGS: ENRG, FR, IEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d10f2250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014